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### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with Code section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 4. Code section 2764 provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under Code section 2811, subdivision (b), the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.
- 5. Code section 118, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.

#### **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

6. Code section 2761 states, in pertinent part:

-The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- (a) Unprofessional conduct...
- (f) Conviction of a felony or of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof. . .
  - 7. Code section 2762 states, in pertinent part:

In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

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- (b) Use any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to himself or herself, any other person, or the public or to the extent that such use impairs his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license.
- (c) Be convicted of a criminal offense involving the prescription, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section, or the possession of, or falsification of a record pertaining to, the substances described in subdivision (a) of this section, in which event the record of the conviction is conclusive evidence thereof. . .

#### 8. Code section 2765 states:

A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a registered nurse is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this article. The board may order the license or certificate suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license or certificate, when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing such person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information or indictment.

#### COST RECOVERY

9. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Criminal Conviction)

1. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (f), in that she was convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse, as follows: On or about September 22, 2006, in the criminal proceeding titled *People v. Emily Anne White* (Super. Ct. Sacramento County, 2006, No. 06T04505), Respondent was convicted by the Court on her plea of nolo contendere to one misdemeanor count in violation of Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision

(b) (driving while having a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or higher)<sup>1</sup>. The incident upon which the conviction is based occurred on approximately September 20, 2006.

### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Use of Alcoholic Beverages to an Extent

# or in a Manner Dangerous or Injurious to Others)

- 2. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined by Code section 2762, subdivision (b). On or about and between approximately March 4, 2005, and October 2006, Respondent used alcoholic beverages to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to herself, others, and the public, as follows:
- a. On May 26, 2006, Respondent self-reported to the Board that she had reported to her employment at Health South Surgery Center in Sacramento, California, drunk with a blood alcohol level of .054.
- b. On September 22, 2006, Respondent was convicted of driving while having a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or higher, as further set forth in paragraph 10 above.
- c. On March 26, 2007, Respondent stated to the Division of Investigation investigator, that she began drinking again after the death of her dog on March 4, 2005, and that by May 26, 2006, things had escalated to the point where she was "out of control" and was "needing to drink to be normal."

# THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Convictions Related to the Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages)

12. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined by Code section 2762, subdivision (c). On or about September 22, 2006, Respondent was convicted of a criminal offense involving the consumption of alcoholic beverages, as set forth in paragraph 10 above.

<sup>1.</sup> Respondent was also originally charged with one misdemeanor count in violation of Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (a) (driving while under the influence of alcohol); however, this charge was dismissed in view of Respondent's plea agreement.

#### **DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS**

- Respondent, Complainant alleges as follows: On June 25, 2001, pursuant to the Stipulation,
  Decision and Order adopted by the Board, effective July 25, 2001, in the disciplinary action titled
  In the Matter of the Statement of Issues Emily Ann Aichele, Case No. 2000-201, the Board issued
  Registered Nurse License No. 584518 to Respondent. The license was automatically revoked;
  however, the revocation was stayed and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of
  three (3) years on terms and conditions. Respondent admitted that there was cause to issue her a
  license and placed that license on probation based upon the grounds that existed to deny her
  application for a registered nurse license under Code sections 480, subdivisions (a)(1) and (a)(3),
  2761, subdivisions (a) and (f), and 2762, subdivisions (b) and (c), due to the following acts or
  omissions:
- a. On or about January 3, 1996, in the criminal proceeding titled *People v. Emily Anne Aichele* (Muni. Ct. San Mateo County, 1996, No. SM273718A), Respondent was convicted by the Court on her plea of nolo contendere to one misdemeanor count in violation of Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b). The incident upon which the conviction is based occurred on approximately November 12, 1995.
- b. On or about August 5, 1999, in the criminal proceeding titled *People v*. *Emily Anne Aichele* (Muni. Ct. Sacramento County, 1999, No. 99T02315), Respondent was convicted by the Court on her plea of nolo contendere to one misdemeanor count in violation of Vehicle Code section 23103 (reckless driving). The incident upon which the conviction is based occurred on approximately April 17, 1999.

#### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 584518, issued to Emily Anne White, also known as Emily White and Emily Anne Aichele;

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2. Ordering Emily Anne White, also known as Emily White and Emily Anne Aichele, to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and

3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 2/19/09

RUTH ANN TERRY, M.P.H., R.N.

**Executive Officer** 

Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant

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